

THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

The Church and Labor. By John A. Ryan, D. D., LL. D., and Joseph Husslein, S. J., Ph. D. Pp. xvii+305. \$3.75 net. The Macmillan Company, New York City.

A Living Wage. By Dr. Ryan. Pp. 182. \$2.50 net. Macmillan.

Distributive Justice. By Dr. Ryan. Pp. 442. \$2.50 net. Macmillan.

Social Reconstruction. By Dr. Ryan. Pp. 242. \$2.50 net. Macmillan.

In "The Church and Labor," the first volume of the contemplated "Social Action Series," the Catholic sociologist will find massed together in convenient form the most important ecclesiastical pronouncements on the labor question. It is, incidentally, a glowing testimonial to the interest taken by the Church in the welfare of the working man. When the saintly Pope Leo XIII looked out upon the world in his day, he saw that the two principal evils then interfering with the proper progress of society were "the misery and wretchedness of the working classes," and the absurd aspirations of Social Democracy which "aims at the putting all government in the hands of the people, reducing all ranks to the same level, abolishing all distinction of class, and finally introducing community of goods." In the two famous letters, "On the Condition of Labor," and "Christian Democracy" the Pope describes these difficulties and sets down methods by which they may be overcome. He declares the necessity of perpetuating the system of private property, the right of labor to organize, the right of the workman to a decent livelihood, proposing schemes for the betterment of the less fortunate, while he urges all men to follow the simple precepts of the Gospel.

These letters form the nucleus of "The Church and Labor." About them are grouped messages of the two succeeding Popes and of four English-speaking Cardinals, official statements of the hierarchy of America, England, Ireland, France, and Germany, all stressing the same ideas that Pope Leo XIII held, and showing their fatherly interest in every movement for the real improvement of the masses. The first pages of the book contain the views with regard to labor which were advanced earlier in the last century by Ozanam and Bishop Ketteler, two Catholic geniuses who were ahead of the times in their clear solutions of the social question. At the end are two papers by Dr. Ryan, and

Father Husslein's "Catholic Social Platform," embodying the principles of Leo XIII in proposals of reform suitable to the present day.

The remaining three treatises deal separately with various phases of the economic problem. That Dr. Ryan acquits himself ably his acknowledged position of authority and the success of earlier editions of "The Living Wage" and "Distributive Justice" are ample guarantee. "Social Reconstruction" is for the most part a commentary enlarging upon the Bishops' Program published by the National Catholic War Council in February 1919.

There are still, even among Catholics, many who need a clear understanding of the traditional teaching of the Church, especially with regard to the right of private ownership of property; and before they pronounce upon the supposed absurdity of any proposal for the benefit of the workman they must be sure that they know all the facts involved, and what are the principles to be applied. In these four books they will find the enlightenment they need.

—J. U. C.

The Problem of Reunion. By Leslie J. Walker, S. J. Pp. 255. \$4.50 net. Longmans Green and Co., New York City.

This remarkable book from the pen of Father Walker, treats in a strikingly novel manner, the age-stained question of reunion with the Church of Rome. The recent war has worked revolution in the thinking world. It has caused many to apply themselves seriously to the consideration of the present status of Christianity, with the result that, in many quarters, the old religion seems to be on trial. The numerous sects, with their contradictory teachings, are an object of scorn to the average free-thinker of the present day, and unless the divided house of Christianity shall effect a settlement of its differences, further disaster appears unavoidable. On the other hand, the war has helped to dispel many of the prejudices which, in former years, proved so formidable an obstacle to reunion. A spirit of fellowship has been awakened between the various churches and the ancient feelings of suspicion and misunderstanding have, to some extent, given way to sympathy and mutual good will. The present book does not pretend to expound a method for settling all existing differences, but is merely a consideration of the problem from the new aspect which it has acquired since the war. Though written throughout in a spirit of charity and respect for the

opinions of others, yet it does not deviate one jot or tittle from what we hold to be the only possible solution of the matter: that the idea of a world-wide, united Church of Christ, can be realized only by the submission of the recalcitrant sects to the true Church from which they have severed themselves.

The book is written in essay form and the inquiry proceeds in an historical manner. A lucid exposition of the nature of the problem, with special stress on the matter of Anglicanism, is followed by a search for the root of the malady, which according to the author, lies in the use of the Scriptural Books for a wrong purpose. The reformers erected the structure of their whole religion on the sands of mere assumption, and unless we can substitute a firm and true basis for so useless and dangerous a foundation, we can never hope to secure the remedy we desire.

Briefly and concisely Father Walker proves that to use the Bible as the sole rule of Faith, is really to misuse it, and that only through the teaching authority of a Spirit-guided Church can we partake of the inestimable treasure contained in Sacred Scripture. Here, then, in the misuse of the Bible, lies the root of the evil. Here, in the recognition of the authority of the one Church of Christ, lies the only cure.

The last essay contains an excellent exposition of the Marks of the True Church, and proposes in a conclusive way, the claims for the Catholic doctrine of Infallibility. This book should prove an invaluable aid, not only to those directly interested in the matter, but to all lovers of truth; and its wide diffusion will surely hasten the settlement of the vexatious question of Christian Unity.

—J. L. C.

A Century of Persecution Under Tudor and Stuart Sovereigns. From Contemporary Records. By the Rev. St. George Kieran Hyland, D. D. Ph. D. Pp. 494. \$8.00 net. E. P. Dutton and Co., New York City.

“The greatest question in history is that which deals with the changes of religion, as these changes have a most fundamental influence on the course of events” (p. vii). That this is more true of England than of any other country on earth, her history, whether written by Catholic or Protestant, amply proves. And to this “strange, eventful history” Dr. Hyland has added a volume of extraordinary importance. It should not be inferred from the title that this work is a purely religious history. While its main theme is the religious life of England dur-

ing the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it also covers the social and political field thoroughly enough to give a faithful picture. This study is based upon the Losely Collection of manuscripts, which contains "documents of every description, covering a period of over three hundred years, recalling the tragedies of dynasties or the great political upheavals of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries" (p. xi). The story these documents tell is by turns interesting, edifying, nauseating and overwhelmingly horrible, but always relentlessly true.

Dr. Hyland divides his work into five parts. In a prologue he sketches a beautiful picture of Catholic life in pre-Reformation England. In his first part he gives the history of Losely and its earlier owners, who were always official personages. The second division treats the reigns of Henry, Elizabeth, James and Charles. Keeping always a firm hold upon his documents Dr. Hyland shows how "while men were asleep an enemy came and over-sowed cockle"; how Elizabeth perfected the work begun by her father; how James took example from Elizabeth; and finally, how by the time Charles I came to the throne the people had become so imbued with the bloodthirsty hatred of Catholicism that the Crown was now powerless to check the Frankenstein it had once created. It is a sad, heartrending story, as black and foul as anything in history, yet relieved and glorified by the heroism of the English Catholics martyred for their faith. Of special interest is the chapter entitled "In the Wine Press," wherein the writer gives a descriptive history of the Tower of London. The third part of the book deals with the Reformation in Surrey and Hampshire. An epilogue, containing a long appendix, a list of documents used and a complete index, brings this admirable work to a close.

That the book was a labor of love can be seen from the orderly arrangement of the material, the painstaking care and patience in searching through thousands of documents, the skillful use made of them, and the sound judgment that Dr. Hyland brings to bear upon his extremely difficult task. His judicious attitude together with his wholehearted devotion to the plain unvarnished truth are his outstanding virtues. They render his work of prime importance not only to all students of English history but also to Catholics the world over. We sincerely hope that it will help along in the great work of bringing home to fairminded Englishmen the truth about the religious upheavals in the history of their country.

—N. J. E.

The New Jerusalem. By G. K. Chesterton. Pp. 307. \$3.00 net. Geo. H. Doran Company, New York.

The Uses of Diversity. A Book of Essays. By G. K. Chesterton. Pp. 289. \$2.00 net. Dodd, Mead Co.

The New Jerusalem is a very interesting but at times very irritating book. There are passages and chapters in the volume unequalled by anything Chesterton has done to date, but at the same time there is a great amount in his "uncomfortably large note book" that is not up to the author's standard. Most of the matter, as he says, was written on the spot, and it is to be lamented occasionally that he was pressed for time, as there are too many indications of having been hurried. Nevertheless the book should be read, for despite these small shortcomings the work gives us a rather broad view of the author's likes, dislikes, his ideas on philosophy, on travel, history and a list of things too long to enumerate. In fact it can be said, if the idea is not too gross, that Chesterton's body was in Palestine, but the birth place of Christianity seemed to a great extent to open his "sub-conscious mind (that fertile soil)," and his mind and his gaze were on troubled Europe and the restive twentieth century. "The Way of the Desert" and "The Gates of the City" are a study and a treat. Perhaps the finest chapter is the "Groups of the City." The "Meaning of the Crusade" will be refreshing to those who have been given every solution of those gigantic movements but the correct one. The ridicule with which Chesterton overwhelms the theories (if such they may be termed), of those who call the Crusades a Folk—Wandering, rank fanaticism, priestcraft or unexpected nomadism, is immense, and it is to be hoped that the point is not lost in all the fine humor. The gallant Godfrey is an idol of Chesterton's heart, but it is hero-worship that has found a worthy object.

"The Problem of Zionism" as exposed by the author will probably raise the most discussion among the friends and foes of the movement. When Chesterton heard "Islam crying from the turret and Israel wailing at the wall" without doubt a significant phase of the question was presented to his mind, and, as he tells us, the hardest part of the Zionist movement is the fact that its headquarters must be in Palestine. Beside this he has pointed out some psychological facts that will tell for and against the undertaking, but he has not insisted enough on the political side of the question, and to many that is the crux of a very

intricate problem. If the exposition of the problem is incomplete we think the solution is more so.

"The Uses of Diversity" is a collection of short papers on about thirty-five different topics from "Seriousness" and "Pigs as Pets" to the "Plan for a New Universe." The book is not intensely interesting but it is characteristically Chestertonian and that is sufficient recommendation, though it must be said it appears that the "Master of the Paradox" is losing some of his sparkle. The essays on "Christian Science," "The Futurists" and "Spirits" should be spread broadcast to check the head-on plunge people are taking into so-called art and irrational religion. Both books serve as companions, they are *sui generis* and well repay the reading.

—J. J. W.

The Cambridge Shakespeare—The Tempest. Edited by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch and John Dover Wilson. Pp. lx+116. \$1.40 net. Macmillan, New York City.

The first volume of the long heralded Cambridge Shakespeare is before us, and the name of Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch on the fly leaf promises us a rare literary treat. Ten pages proved we had not hoped in vain. Here is no mere reprint, but a new edition throughout, breaking boldly away from the fetters of tradition to put before us Shakespeare, not as customary criticism would have him, but as the earliest editions show him to be.

One third of the volume is occupied with prefatory notes bearing, for the most part, on the whole of the contemplated series, and on the general machinery of Shakespearean criticism. Especially illuminating are the "Textual Introduction" and the "Note on Punctuation." Backed by the recent discoveries of Sir Thompson, Mr. Pollard, and Mr. Simpson, the editors take their stand by the Quarto and the First Folio editions of the poet's work as bearing far greater authority than is generally conceded them. The "Sir Thomas More" specimen of Shakespearean handwriting has enabled them to account for and correct many misprints in the first editions. Glaring and obvious mistakes they courageously refuse to perpetuate. An example will suffice: they have changed to the plural the outrageous form of the verb in "What cares these roars for the name of king?" For which our hearty thanks. What has rendered sacrosanct so palpable a misprint?

Two features of the new work deserve special commendation. The editors have abandoned the traditional but entirely unauthorized grouping of the play into acts and scenes. For convenience in reference, however, this has been retained at the top of the page, and in brackets on the margin at the place of each customary break in the text. And they have made copious insertion of stage directions. These latter, coupled with the revised punctuation, aid greatly in dramatic reading and mental visualization of the play.

We must steal somewhat from the editors to give to the publishers their meed of praise. In all its features the work is as adequate a piece of printing as we have yet seen issued from an American press.

G. L. C.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

In **The Religious Consciousness** James Bissett Pratt, Ph. D., offers us a psychology of Religion sane to a rare degree. Throughout the work the author observes, describes and compares the religious attitude of various groups of men, without entering into the question of the truth of any given religion. He has obviously taken pains to understand the Catholic view, and though a few of his statements cannot meet with our approval, yet if we but keep in mind that the work deals with the subject from a psychological aspect only, we shall find many things of genuine interest and value. Especially splendid is the comparison of Catholic and Protestant forms of worship in the fourteenth chapter. (Macmillan. \$2.50). Far less impartial in its treatment is **Christianity in its Modern Expression** by George Burman Foster of Chicago University, a wild attack on Christian dogma that can interest the Catholic student only as an index of the ineffable rot posing as philosophy of religion in some of our large secular centers of learning. (Macmillan. \$3.75). In these days when everything from kings to cabbages is subjected to legislation, wise and otherwise, it is a pleasure to meet with so lucid a treatment of the Thomistic doctrine on unjust laws as Father Mignault, O. P., gives us in **Resistance aux Lois Injustes**. The right of resistance and the proper method are deduced from copious Scriptural and Patristic texts. (College Dominicaine, Ottawa. \$0.75). Father Owen Hill, S. J., has sensed a real need in the lack of scholastic manuals in English, and his **Psychology and Natural Theology** goes a good way toward supplying this want. We would like to give the work unqualified praise, but must take exception to the author's statement that the system of Molinism "is free from every reasonable objection" (p. 357). To any one at all conversant with the positive side of Molinism and the philosophical difficulties of Scientia Media and the Concursus Simultaneus which form its very backbone, the assertion will appear, to say the least, arbitrary and unwarranted. (Macmillan. \$3.50). Some very practical truths are brought home to us in Dr. James J. Walsh's **Religion and Health**, wherein he traces to spiritual causes many of our pains and sufferings, and points out their relations to Christian virtues and the opposite vices. The book should be of special value to the confessor. (Little, Brown. \$2.50).

Making due allowances for slips of a non-Catholic pen, those interested in pulpit oratory will find a helpful and inspiring book in S. Park Cadman's **Ambassadors of God**. The author laments the growing tendency—happily not so prevalent among us—of making the pulpit a place for preaching everything but the word of God, and urges a return to sober, religious topics. His suggestions for the remote and proximate preparation toward this end are admirable. (Macmillan. \$2.50). Clergy and laity alike will be interested in Father George T. Schmidt's timely treatment of the vital topics dealt with in **The Church and the Problems of Today**. (Benziger. \$1.50). Many helpful hints for organizing societies are offered the busy pastor in Father Garesche's **Social Organization in Parishes**. Some of the ideas suggested will, naturally, not appeal to all, and the author wisely adds a chapter on following one's own methods. (Benziger. \$2.75). Interesting as a novel, and a well deserved tribute to the memory of Father Dan Coffey, its Celtic hero. **A Milltown Pastor** by Joseph Conroy, S. J., cannot fail to bring cheer and encouragement to the heart of every priest called upon to face the difficulties surmounted by this dauntless pastor of polyglot Mingo, Ohio. (Benziger. \$1.75).

Teachers in our Catholic schools will be interested in the new series of text-books on religion prepared by Dr. McEachen of the Catholic University. A thorough study of pedagogy and years of experience have induced the author to abandon the old catechetical method for a more direct and scientific mode of instruction. **Religion; Course I**, (cloth \$0.52). prepared for the smallest tots, contains forty lessons. Each consists of an apt illustration of the topic, beneath which are given in four or five simple statements the main points of the doctrine to be imparted. The **Manual** (\$1.28) a necessary companion volume for the teacher, follows the text lesson by lesson, suggesting various questions for drawing out the topic and adapting it to the mental content of the little ones. In the **Teaching of Religion** (\$1.20) those interested in the work will find explained in detail the pedagogical principles of the illustrious author. (Macmillan). In **The Visible Church** Rev. J. F. Sullivan provides us with a simple text-book on the ceremonies, sacramentals, festivals, and devotions of our Religion. The volume is generously supplied with illustrative cuts specially prepared for the book; and it is so arranged that it will answer also for a concise reference work in the Catholic home. (Kenedy, \$1.00).

In **Principes of Freedom**, Terence MacSwiney imparts to us with rare literary charm and engaging sincerity an intimate confession of his deep political faith. The book, refreshingly free from wild invective against England, limits itself chiefly to setting before the Irish the principles to which they must hold fast if they would later make the most of the liberty they toil to gain. Things of the mind and the soul must be given first place; "it would be better to be crushed under the wheels of great powers than to prosper by their example" of drawing "no distinction between true freedom and licentious living." With MacSwiney we can promise the reader that, though he may not agree on all points, he will come to realize that the Irish question can no longer be dismissed with a smile. (Dutton, \$2.00). Another book of strong political interest is Stephen Lauzanne's **Great Men and Great Days**. The foremost editor of France dissects boldly the outstanding characters connected with the recent war, giving us his observations in a series of lively pen pictures. We find it easy to forgive him if occasionally dissecting knife and recording pen are guided unconsciously by the author's passionate love for France. The best sketches are those of Roosevelt, Delcasse and that "political eel," Lloyd George (Appleton. \$3.00).

In **The Mother of Divine Grace** Fr. Hogan, O. P., succeeds in presenting Thomistic theology on the Blessed Virgin in attractive, popular form. His work will serve equally well for the edification of the faithful and the instruction of well-disposed non-Catholics. Preachers will find it a mine of splendid sermon matter. (Benziger, \$2.00). Around **Our Lord's Last Discourses** the Abbe Nouvelle has woven a series of meditations that for subject matter and treatment it would be hard indeed to surpass. (Benziger, \$2.00). A welcome devotional volume for the present month is **June Roses for the Sacred Heart**. (Kenedy, \$0.50).

Our Family Affairs by E. F. Benson takes us to the very hearthstone of the Benson household, giving us many intimate peeps into the private life of the illustrious family from the author's boyhood days to the death of his father. The work is exquisitely done, and should furnish many delightful hours to lovers of literary memoirs. (Doran, \$4.00). Joseph Conrad's **Notes on Life and Letters** fall far short of the writer's best work. In his estimates of De Maupassant, and Turgenev, and in his outburst against censorship of plays he mouths the shibboleth "Art for Art's Sake" with careless disregard for moral issues as minor and foreign details. The best essays are those breathing the brisk, salt air of the sea. (Doubleday, \$1.90).

From the treasure-hold of fiction we draw good things and bad. **Blind Mice**, by C. Kay Scott, is a dark story of unhappy domestic life, with neither great artistic merit, wholesome humor, nor common decency to recommend it (Doran, \$2.00). It is a treat to turn next to Eleanor Porter's posthumous novel, **Sister Sue**, with its deep pathos and its unflinching note of gladness. Sue is not a stranger, a mere character in a book, but the mother or the big sister of every one of us; and though it be rash to prophesy, we shall at least not be surprised if she live henceforth as a type of the best in our splendid, self-sacrificing American womanhood. (Houghton Mifflin, \$2.00). Isabel Clarke turns to new fields for her story in **Tressider's Sisters**, and the change has done her good. Though the characters have been better drawn in earlier stories, none of her previous work equals this for freshness of plot and truth to life. The surprise ending is in strict accord with the demands of rigorous justice. (Benziger, \$2.50). **From Out the Vasty Deep**, by Mrs. Belloc Lowndes, the gifted sister of Hilaire Belloc, is an interesting tale of ghosts bobbing up at a Christmas party. Unity for the somewhat desultory plot is secured by the dominant note of mystery, and our only regret at the end is that we did not see more of mediumistic "Bubbles." (Doran, \$1.90). Child psychology is excellently done in Harry Leon Wilson's **The Wrong Twin**, which gives us all a chance to live over our boyhood days. Pampered Merle Cowan is adopted into the wealthy Whipple family; his brother Wilbur must not stay out in the cold, so—But we'll not give the story away. Genial Sharon Whipple and the reader discover first which is the wrong twin. (Doubleday, \$1.75).